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Ducky Daddles' Party

BERTHA PARKER HALL

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DUCKY DADDLES' PARTY

BY

BERTHA PARKER HALL

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TO MARY

(WHO OWNS BOTH THE TOYS AND THE AUTHOR)

DUCKY DADDLES' PARTY

ONCE upon a time there was a little web-foot whose name was Ducky Daddles.

He had been a good boy for such a *very* long time that his mother thought she would give him a party.

A party seemed like the very nicest thing in the world to Ducky and he asked his mother so many questions about who was coming and what they would do and all the rest of it, that she wished she had made it a surprise party so that he wouldn't have known anything about it beforehand.

"Now, Ducky," said his mother, "there is one thing you must remember, you must be thoughtful and polite and play with *all* of your guests. Don't play all the time with Sally Jane just because you are used to playing with her every day."

Ducky promised, and he really meant to keep his promise.

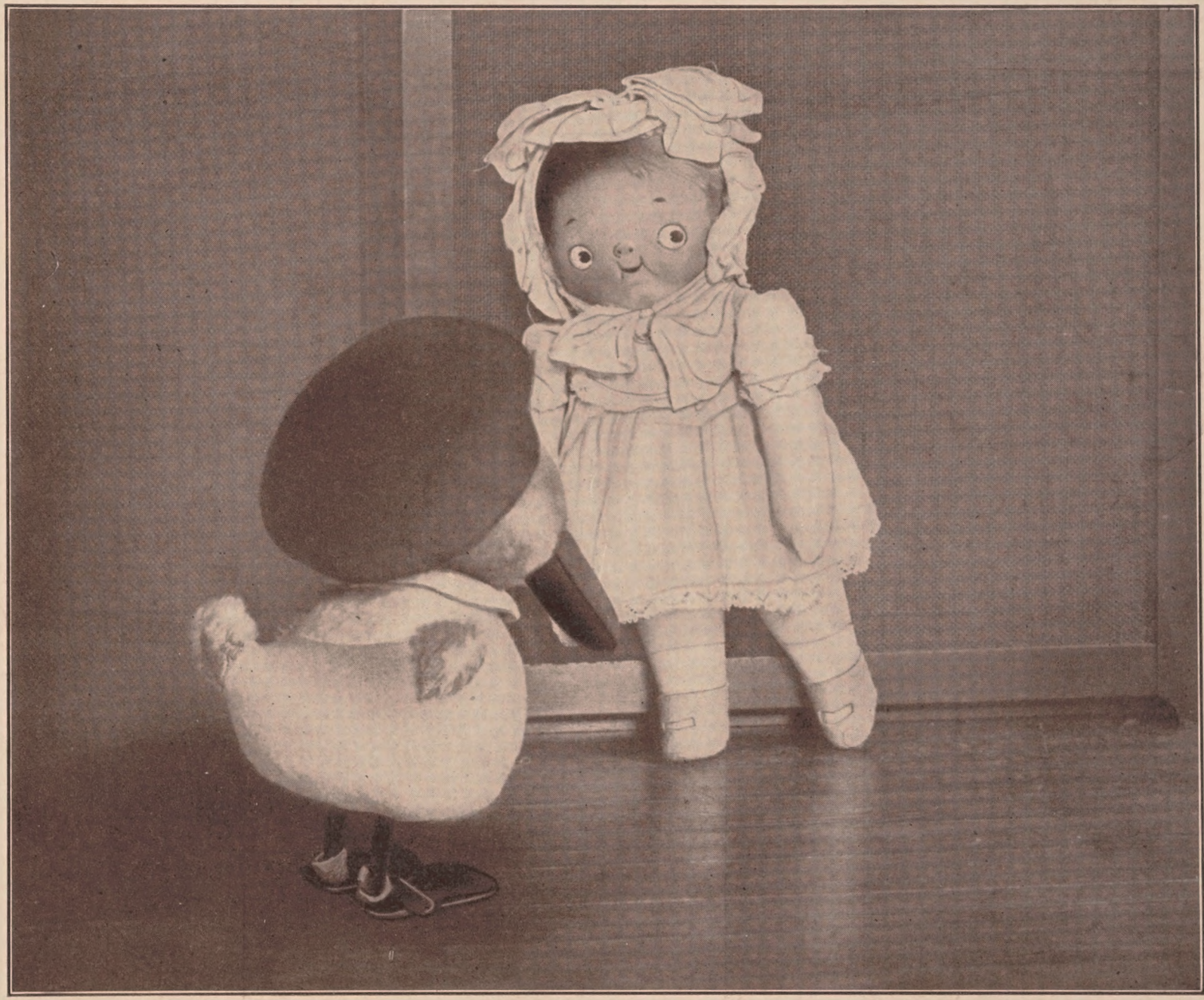
DUCKY was just three years old and Dinah the cook baked him a lovely cake. When it had cooled off after coming out of the oven she put three candles on the top, and hid it away on a high shelf in the closet.

She wasn't going to have little web-foot asking *her* a thousand questions about the cake, and besides she wanted it to be a surprise.

EVA

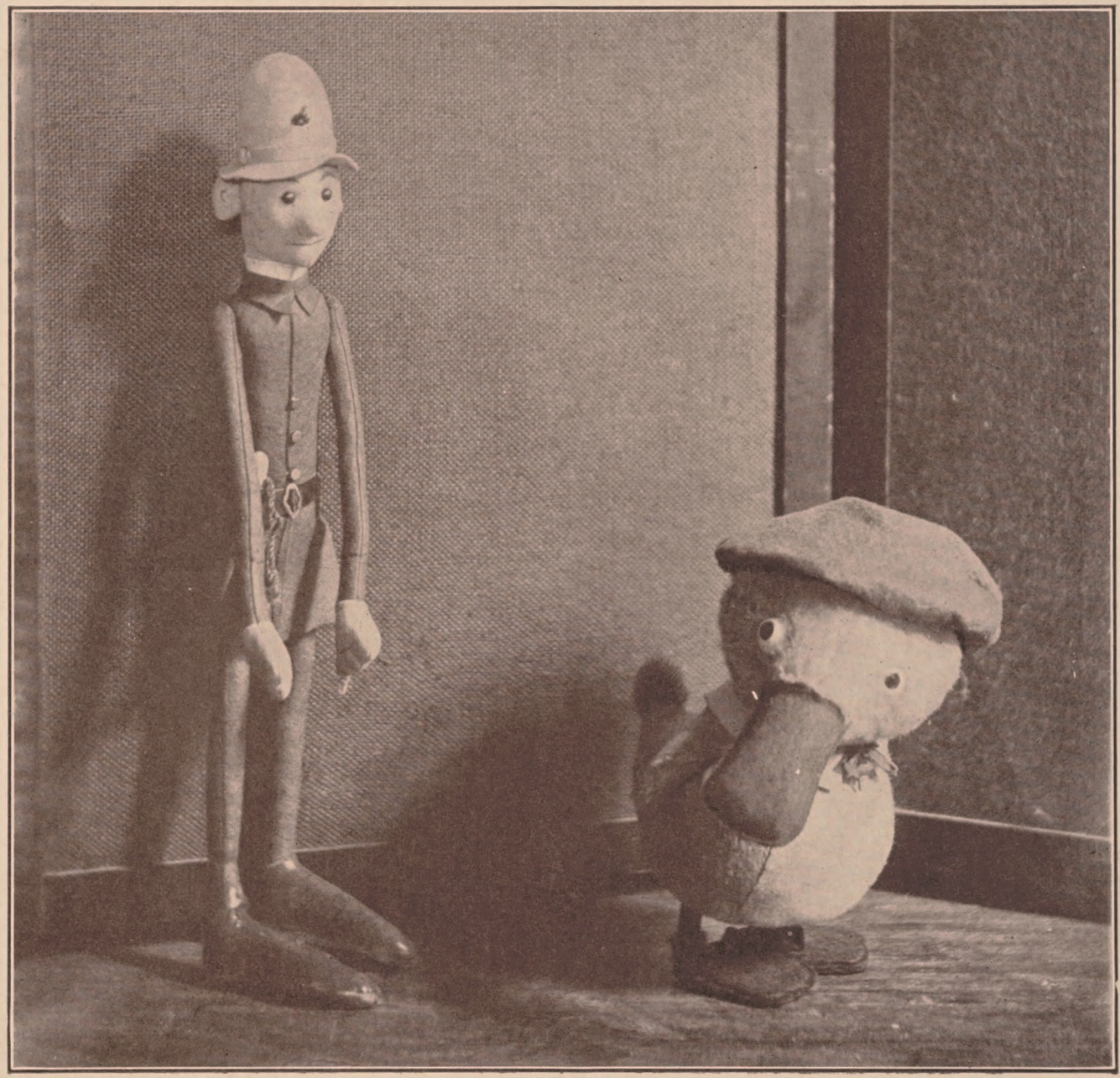
THE day of the party finally arrived and after Ducky was dressed in his best suit, his mother had to set him on a chair to keep him clean until the others came.

When the door bell rang she said to him: "Now you may go," and he almost flew down the stairs to meet the first guest, who was his best friend, little Sally Jane.



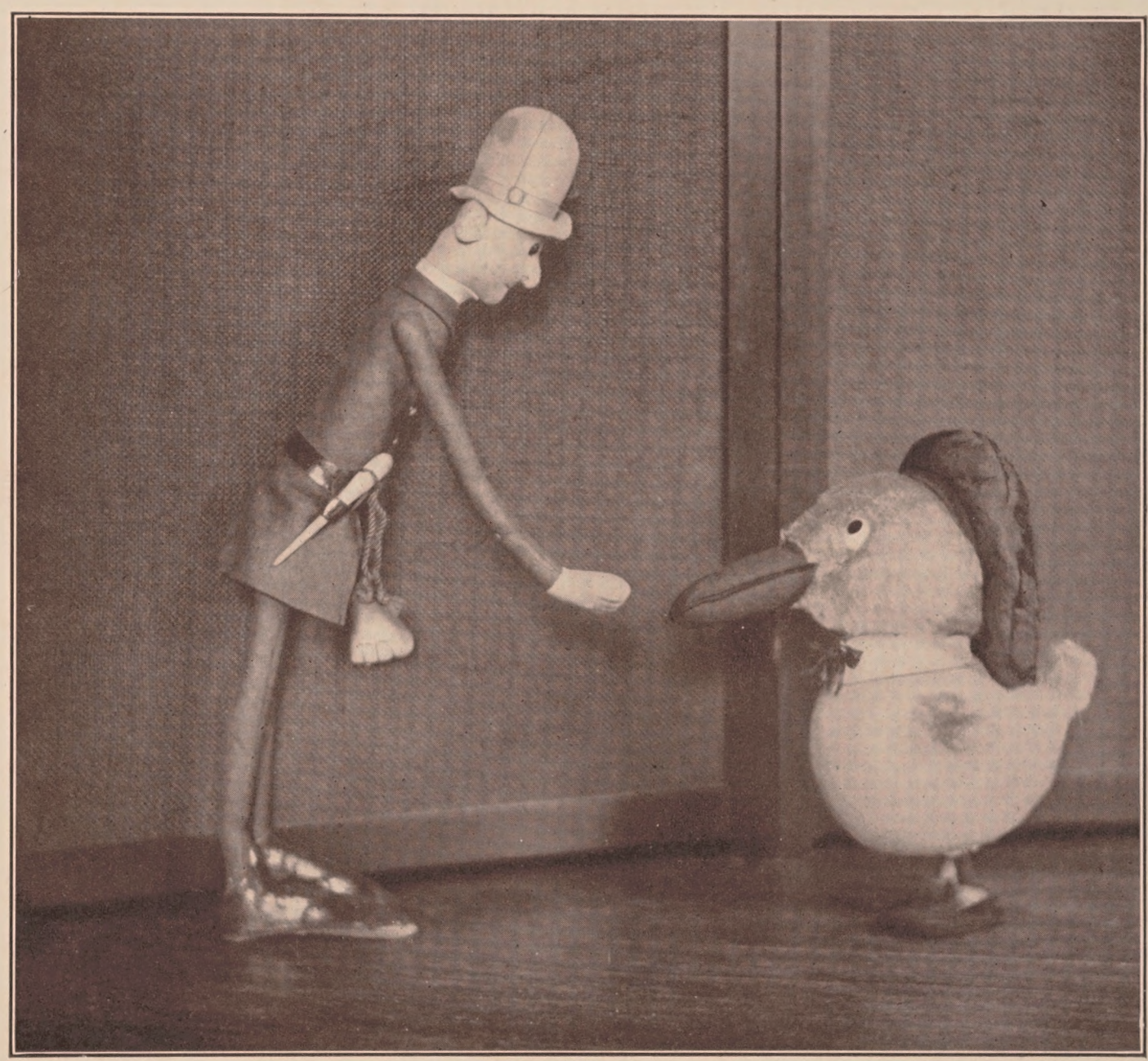
THE next one to come was a great big policeman who frightened Ducky a little, so that he wanted to run and hide behind his mother.

He had heard the boys talk about "getting arrested" and he thought that if you were where a policeman could see you, you *might* get arrested for doing the least little thing.



BUT this policeman held out his hand and spoke so kindly that Ducky was no longer afraid, and they soon got to be such good friends that Ducky played "Rich man, poor man, beggarman, thief" on the policeman's coat buttons while waiting for more guests to come.

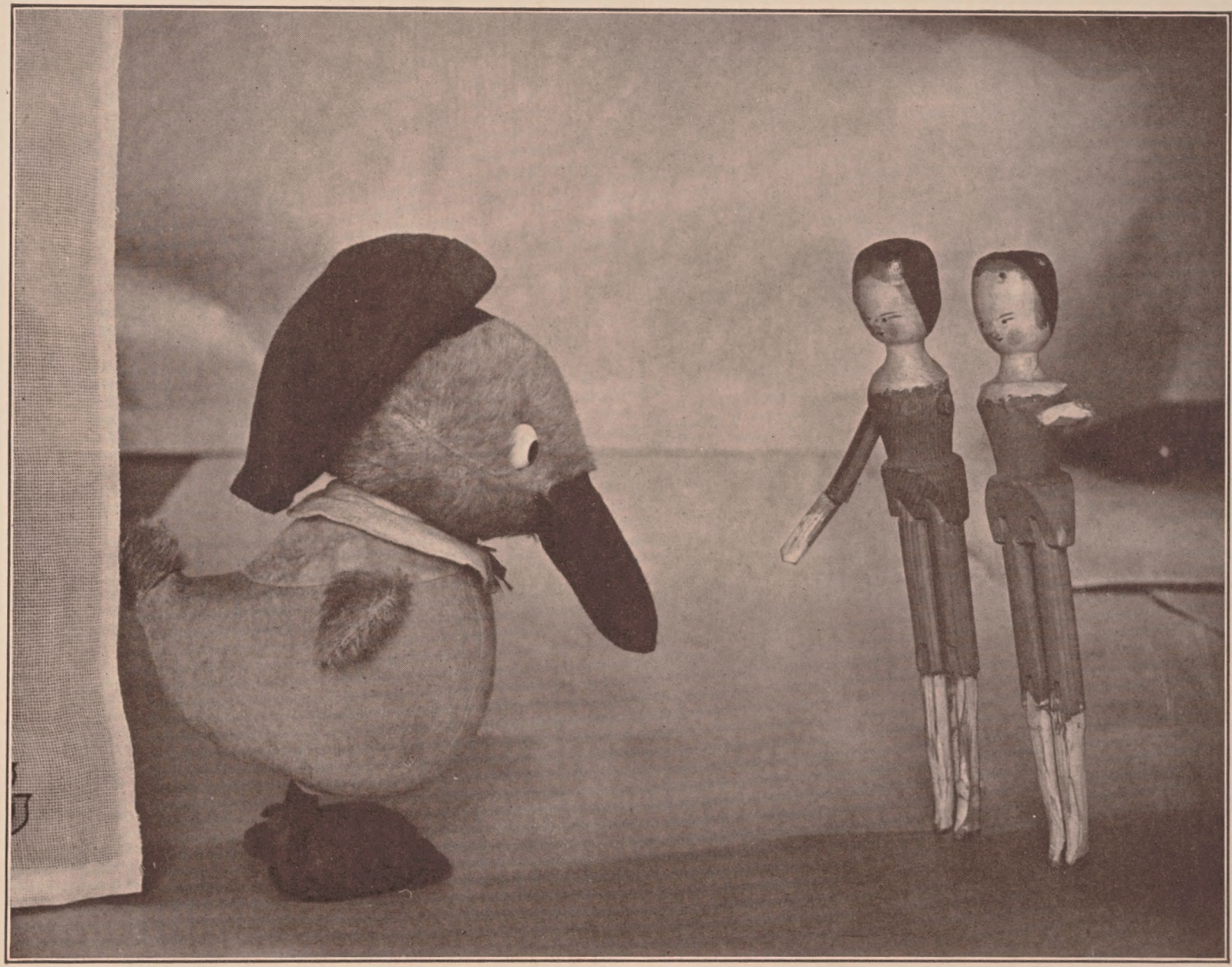
It isn't every little duck that dares do that!



NEXT to the policeman came two English Penny dolls who were quite without clothes, never having had any, but they did not seem to feel the cold in the least.

These dolls were called Araminta and Arabella, and each had lost an arm in some accident, but they were just as jolly and cheerful as people who have been in accidents always are.

Everybody wanted Araminta and Arabella to come to their parties because they were lively and made so much fun.



WHO should arrive next but two funny Golliwogs who came from Scotland, where all the Golliwogs live.

They used to live in a shop in Edinburgh, and sailed across the ocean before Ducky was hatched.

Their names were Mac Donald and Mac Pherson, and each was called Mac for short. This made it very confusing because every time any one asked a question like "What time is it, Mac?" they both answered, and then you had to explain which Mac you meant.

BETTY walked in next, looking very sweet in a new dress. She gave Ducky three birthday kisses "and one to grow on."

Ducky thought they were much nicer than the three spanks "and one to grow on" that his father gave him before breakfast that morning.

IT was quite a big party. The next time the door bell rang there were some Japanese ladies and two little boys.

It was good they talked English so Ducky could understand them, but he thought it was very funny-sounding English. The only languages he knew were English, Duck and "beginning French."

RIGHT behind them came two tall dolls dressed like French fisher folk, one as Joan of Arc and another as an Italian peasant.

Ducky thought they were the most wonderful of all.

WHEN all were there, Ducky asked very politely, "What shall we play?"

"Let's play 'Farmer in the Dell,' " said Betty.

"Let's play 'Blind Man's Buff,' " cried Araminta and Arabella, who were good runners.

Little Sammy and Joan and the Golliwogs wanted "Drop the Handkerchief," so Ducky's mother said, "Suppose you play all three, and begin with 'Farmer in the Dell.' "

THAT suited everybody, so they took hold of hands and made a circle, choosing Betty for the farmer. You can see her standing right there in the middle while they went around and around singing:

"The farmer takes a wife, the farmer takes a wife,
Heigho, the Cherry O, the farmer takes a wife."

And then
"The wife takes a child,"

And
"The child takes a nurse,"

And
"The nurse takes a cat,"

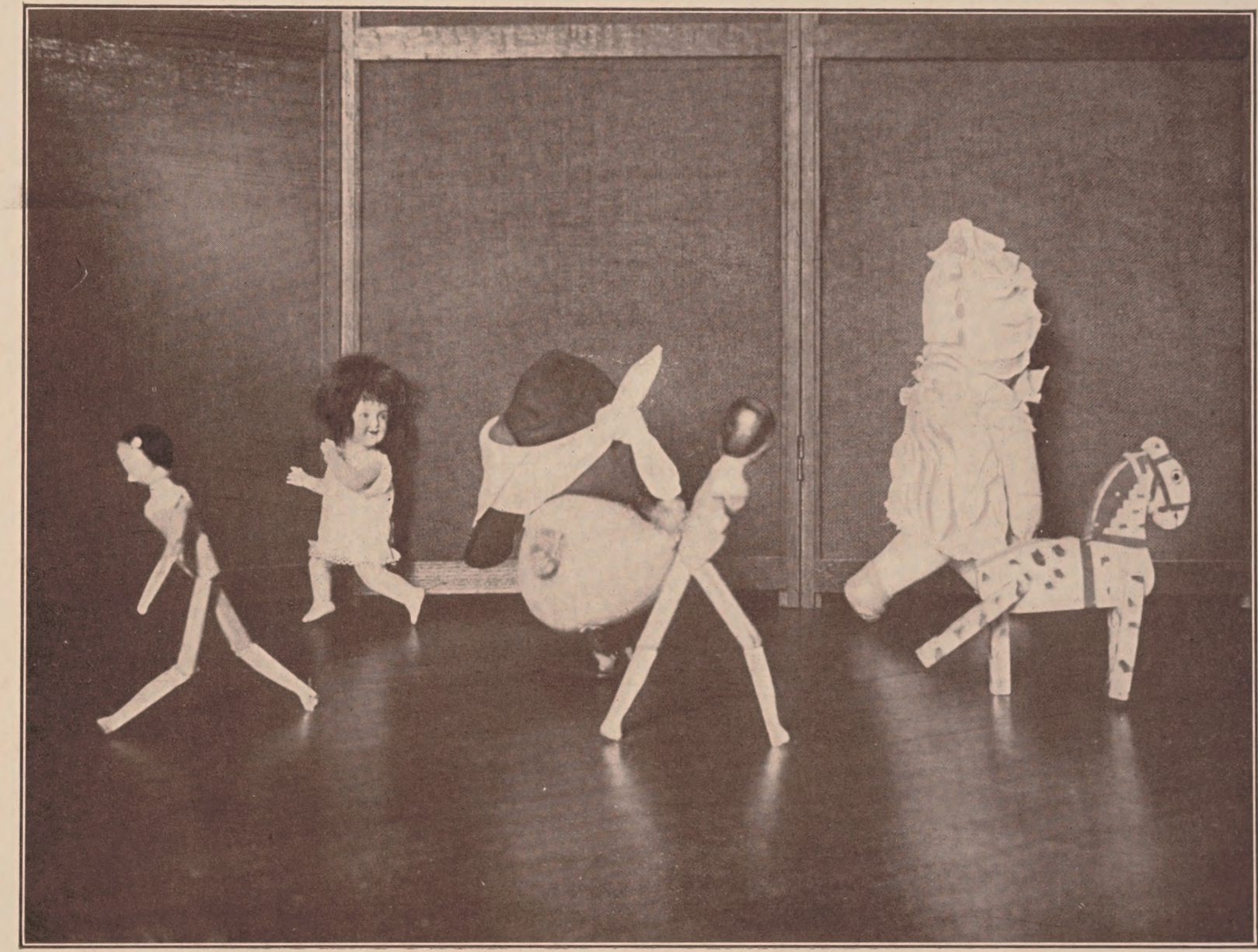
And
"The cat takes a mouse,"

And, last of all,
"The mouse takes a cheese."

Betty chose Araminta for the wife, Araminta chose Ducky for the child, Ducky chose Joan for the nurse, Joan chose one of the Macs for the cat, he chose Sally Jane for the mouse and she took Kewpie for the cheese, and so on.

WHEN they were tired of "Farmer in the Dell" they played "Blind Man's Buff."

Ducky was Blind Man first and you can see him blindfolded and the rest running to get out of his way. It was so much fun that you could hear them laugh and shout way down the road. But they got very hot and tired doing that, and were glad to change presently to a quieter game.



THIS was "Drop the Handkerchief."
They sang:

"A tisket, a tasket,
A green and yellow basket,
I sent a letter to my love,
And on the way I dropped it—
Dropped it—dropped it."

You can see that Betty has dropped the handkerchief behind Sammy and he is running after her.

"London Bridge" came next, and while the guests were playing that, Sally Jane and Ducky disappeared.

DUCKY wanted to show his friend, Sally, some new little pigs that had just come, so although his mother had said, "Now don't play with Sally alone when you have a party," he disobeyed her and slipped out of the room and ran to the barn, where they climbed down some long steps that led to the pen where the piggies lived.

OUTSIDE of the pig pen door they met one of the little pigs.

"Hello, Piggy," said Ducky, but it was afraid and ran away from him as fast as it could go.

All it said was "Wee, wee, wee-e-e-e-e!"

DUCKY couldn't imagine how he would get the door open for Sally to see the pigs, when along came a great Big Man who opened it for them.

There were the pigs sound asleep in a little heap just inside the door!

Sally thought they were so cunning she wanted to squeeze every one of them.

AND then a dreadful thing happened! Old Mother Pig thought some one was going to hurt her babies and she came to the door making the most terrible noises you ever heard!

"Oi, oi, oi," said she in a deep angry voice, and was coming right out after Ducky, who trembled with fright, until the kind Big Man put his hand down and pushed her back into the pen.

Then Ducky and Sally turned and ran towards the house as fast as their legs would carry them.

I AM very sorry to have to tell you that Ducky disobeyed his mother again and didn't go right back to his guests as he should have done!

Sally wanted to see the baby, so Ducky took her upstairs and they tiptoed into the room where it was sleeping.

This baby was visiting at Ducky's house, and being too little to talk or play or do anything but eat and sleep, it was put to bed before the party began.

THIS time Ducky was naughty in another way, for his mother had told him that no one must go into the baby's room because the least noise would wake it up, but although Sally said she would be so quiet that she wouldn't even breathe, Ducky couldn't help feeling scared and uncomfortable.

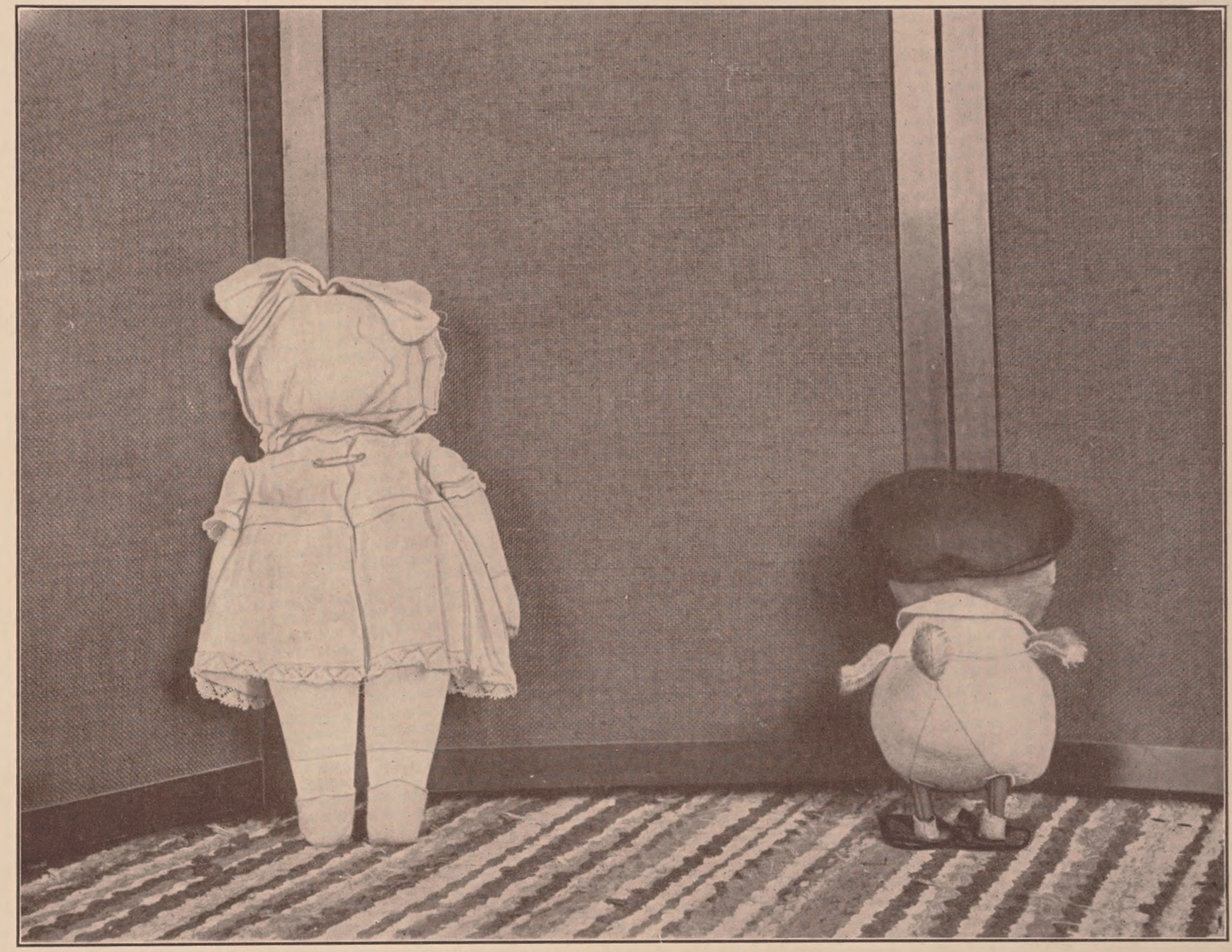
THEN—you can see for yourself what came next!

That clumsy little Sally leaned too hard on the cradle and over it tipped, so far that the baby fell out!

Their shrieks and screams brought Mother rushing upstairs. The baby was not hurt, fortunately, but was thoroughly frightened and stayed awake for a long time.

MOTHER punished the naughty children by making them stand in a corner for ten minutes so that they would remember to obey in the future.

It was very hard to stand there and hear the fun going on downstairs, and they did hope that nobody would open the door and look at them, and cried and had to have their faces washed before they were fit to be seen again.



EVERYTHING comes to an end, and so did the punishment, which was soon forgotten when they all sat down to have ice cream, and Ducky's birthday cake was brought in with the candles lighted.

There were little hearts with green and pink and chocolate icing on them and two plates of ice cream for every one!!!

At five o'clock when the mothers came after the guests, all were sorry to go and thanked Ducky Daddles for the wonderful time they had had, wishing him "Many happy returns."

WHEN Ducky's mother tucked him in his little bed that night, and was ready to blow out the candle, he said, "Thank you for my party, Mother dear. It was a lovely party and I am never, never going to disobey you again."

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